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Official voice of the Air Force Research Laboratory

Information employees honored for research

by Francis L. Crumb, Information Directorate

ROME, N.Y. — Seven members of the Air Force Research Laboratory Information Directorate support staff have been honored for their contributions to the directorate's research and development mission.

Receiving awards during Heritage Day ceremonies in September were: Andrew S. Cucura, Alex S. Sisti Comptroller of the Year; 1st Lt. Daniel N. Harvala, General Robert C. Mathis Award; Janis Norelli, Maj. Gen. Daniel C. Doubleday Award; Anthony J. Eriole, Operations and Support Excellence Award; Joetta A. Bernhard, Robert V. Decker Memorial Award; Suzanne C. Nessel, Secretary/Clerical of the Year Award; and SSgt. Raam David, Technical Support Award.

Cucura is assigned as a financial services specialist in the Financial Services Office. In that position, he develops and revises accounting procedures and provides liaison between directorate activities and the Defense Finance and Accounting Services. He also examines, verifies and maintains accounts and financial data as part of the accounting cycle.

The Comptroller of the Year Award is named in honor of the late Alex S. Sisti, a pioneer in the automation of Air Force financial and information systems, who retired Jan. 3, 1998. It is conferred annually to an individual assigned to the Comptroller Division for outstanding contributions to financial management for the directorate.

The Mathis Award, presented each year to a member of the directorate staff for outstanding contributions to community relations, is named for the former Rome Air Development Center (RADC) commander who retired as Air Force Vice Chief of Staff. RADC was renamed Rome Laboratory in 1990 and became part of AFRL in the fall of 1997.

Lieutenant Harvala was cited for numerous charitable, patriotic and social contributions to the Central New York area that enhanced the reputation of the directorate as a caring member of the community. Prior to being transferred in August to the Air Force Institute of Technology, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, Lieutenant Harvala served as a computer research engineer in the directorate's Information Technology Division.

The Doubleday Award is presented annually to a directorate staff member for outstanding management or administrative actions. It is named after the former commander of RADC during two periods.

Norelli, a 14-year Rome employee, is a small business specialist and manager of the directorate's Small Business Innovative Research (SBIR) program. In that position, she ensures that small research and development businesses are aware of business opportunities with the government in general, and the Information Directorate, specifically.

Eriole is the directorate's supervisory police officer with responsibilities for force protection and anti-terrorism. He joined the laboratory staff in 1985, after several years with the 416th Bombardment Wing at Griffiss. He was honored as the 1985 Civilian Police Officer of the Year by the former Strategic Air Command.

The Operations & Support Excellence Award is presented annually to a member of the Operations and Support Division for outstanding customer support.

Eriole was cited for his steadfast effort in providing a safe and secure environment for the 1,600 federal and contractor employees, as well as more than \$400 million in property, at the AFRL Rome Research Site.

Bernhard is a procurement analyst/contracting officer in the Contracting Division. The

Decker Award is presented each year to a member of the division for an outstanding achievement which contributed to the success of the laboratory's mission.

Bernhard is responsible for all broad agency announcements and program Research and Development Announcements published at the Rome Research Site. She provides guidance to industry and laboratory personnel on both types of announcements, as well as serving as Contracting focal point for the Small Business Innovative Research and the Small Business Technology Transfer programs.

Nessel, secretary to the chief of the Information Systems Division, joined the staff in 1995, after serving with numerous organization at the former base. Her award is presented annually to the outstanding secretarial/clerical member of the staff.

Nessel was cited for her dedication to the employees and management and control over the workload of a division geographically dispersed between Rome and Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio.

Sergeant David is a master fabrication craftsman and noncommissioned officer in charge of the directorate's Environmental Test and Experiment Facility. In that capacity, he designs and fabricates intricate fixtures for a variety of test equipment, which enables scientists and engineers to perform tests in a more timely and successful manner.

His award is given each year to a civilian (GS-7 and below) or military (E-7 and below) whose position is to provide staff or support service. @